

# BOTANICAL MUSEUM LEAFLETS

## HARVARD UNIVERSITY

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, MARCH 20, 1933

No. 6

### AN ADDITION TO THE GENUS HEXADESMIA

BY  
OAKES AMES

THE NEW SPECIES of *Hexadesmia* described below might readily be mistaken for a tall, slender form of *H. crurigera* Lindl., but in the texture and color of the flowers, and in the outline of the very different labellum it is quite distinct.

***Hexadesmia hondurensis*** *Ames sp. nov.* In habitu *H. crurigeræ* Lindl. similitudinem gerit, sed labelli lobis et magnitudine differt. Caules caespitosi, valde elongati, diphylli. Folia anguste linearia. Pedunculus quam folia brevior. Racemus plus minusve septemflorus. Sepala lateralia mentum rotundatum formantia, ovato-lanceolata, acuta, extus per medium leviter carinata. Sepalum dorsale oblongo-lanceolatum, concaviusculum. Petala oblonga, apice abrupte rotundata. Label- lum subpanduratum, apice valde bilobatum, prope basim bicallosum. Columna in pedem producta.

Stems densely caespitose, erect, 12–15 cm. tall, minutely pseudobulbous at the base, very slender and many-sheathed for about 6 cm. then abruptly thickened to form an elongated secondary pseudobulb which is 8–9 cm. long, about 5 mm. in diameter when dry, subtended by several imbricating truncate sheaths and diphyllous at the apex.

Leaves linear, grass-like, 15–23 cm. long, about 3 mm. wide, obtuse, apiculate, obliquely erect. Inflorescence racemose, arising in the axil of the leaves, 6–7 cm. long, erect, with several imbricating scarious sheaths at the base, about 7-flowered. Bracts of the raceme about 5 mm. long, narrowly lanceolate, conduplicate. Pedicels with the ovary 1–1.3 cm. long, slender, obliquely ascending, distichous. Flowers pale yellow with lavender striations on the labellum. Lateral sepals 5 mm. long, about 3 mm. wide, ovate-lanceolate, acute, strongly concave, connate at the base forming a conspicuous rounded mentum, lightly carinate along the middle nerve on the outer surface. Dorsal sepal 5 mm. long, oblong-lanceolate, acute, closely appressed to the petals, 3-nerved to the tip. Petals 5 mm. long, about 2 mm. wide, oblong, abruptly rounded at the tip, subacute. Labellum about 9 mm. long, 6 mm. wide across the bilobed tip, obliquely ascending then sharply deflexed, subpandurate from a rounded base; the apical lobes 3 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, rounded, slightly divaricate, obscurely erose on the margin. Disc with two obliquely placed basal calli from each of which a lightly raised keel extends nearly to the sinus formed by the terminal lobes, with a central keel between them and a short supplementary keel on each side. Column about half as long as the dorsal sepal, produced into a conspicuous foot. Pollinia six.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Minas de Oro. Epiphyte in open mountain forest, at 4,000 feet altitude. Sepals and petals pale yellow, labellum pale yellow with lavender stripes. December 26, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 334*. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39065); Epiphyte in open mountain forest, at 4,000 feet altitude. Sepals and petals green with lavender ticking, labellum bronze. December 28, 1932. *J. B. Edwards 337*.

ILLUSTRATION: Plant natural size. 1, lateral sepal enlarged. 2, dorsal sepal enlarged. 3, petal enlarged. 4, flower enlarged. 5, lip and column viewed from the side, enlarged. 6, pollinia enlarged.

# HEXADESMIA

*hondurensis*

Ames







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# A NEW BLETIA FROM SPANISH HONDURAS

BY  
OAKES AMES

AMONG recent collections made by J. B. Edwards in Spanish Honduras, a new species of *Bletia* has been recognized. It is without close allies and differs from all other Central American components of the genus in having the disc of the labellum closely beset with papilliform emergences below the base of the middle lobe. The following description was prepared with the aid of flowers preserved in alcohol.

***Bletia papillifera*** *Ames sp. nov.* Cormus depresso-subglobosus vel pyriformis, vaginis pluribus scariosis vestitus. Folia lineari-lanceolata, acuta, nervosa. Scapus erectus, elongatus, gracilis, pauciflorus. Sepala lateralibus oblonga, acuta. Sepalum dorsale simile. Petala anguste oblongo-elliptica, obtusa, nervosa. Labellum supra medium trilobatum; lobi laterales erecti, triangulares, obtusi; lobus medius obcordatus, leviter carinatus, carinis crassiusculis; discus papillifer. Columna vix in pedem producta, elongata, prope apicem anguste bialata, prope basim utrinque lobata.

Roots coarsely fibrous, whitish, smooth, sulcate longitudinally when dry, up to 7 cm. long, about 2 mm. in diameter. Corm globular or pyriform, 2–2.5 cm. long, covered with the fibrous remains of closely appressed sheaths. Leaves 12–20 cm. long, 5–17 mm. wide, one or two in number, much shorter than the flower-scape, linear-lanceolate, acute, tapering to a narrow sulcate base. Scape erect, about 40 cm. long, slender, about 2 mm. in diameter, with several closely appressed scariosus sheaths. Flowers two to four, secund, whitish tinged with crim-

son, opening in succession, 2–4 cm. distant from one another, the lowermost one with maturing capsule while the terminal one is in the bud. Bracts of the inflorescence about 1 cm. long, lanceolate, tapering gradually to an acute tip. Pedicels about 1 cm. long, slender. Ovary about 1 cm. long. Lateral sepals 12–14 mm. long, 3.5 mm. wide, oblong, acute, lightly carinate beneath the tip or simply thickened, nervose. Dorsal sepal about 14 mm. long, similar to the laterals. Petals 14 mm. long, 3.5 mm. wide, narrowly oblong-elliptical, tapering rather gradually to a rounded tip, many-nerved. Labellum 14 mm. long, 3-lobed; lateral lobes triangular, obtuse, erect, arising just above the middle, 9 mm. long to the base of the column, the nerves nearest the sinus thickened or verrucose; middle lobe 5–6 mm. long, 7.5 mm. wide near the middle, 3.5 mm. wide at the base, obcordate or cuneate with a rounded retuse tip, with about eleven irregularly carinate or verrucose nerves, apical margin turned upward. Disc papilliferous along the nerves up to the base of the middle lobe, the papillae purplish. Column about 7 mm. long, dilated upward, with a rounded wing or lobe on each side at the base; anther 2.5 mm. long, conical, long-stipitate. Pollinia eight.

REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS, Department of Comayagua, Kilometer 154, Tegucigalpa Highway. Terrestrial in marshy ground in open pine forest, 3,400 feet altitude. Sepals and petals cream with a scarlet tint; lip cream with many scarlet stripes. October 6, 1932. *J. B. Edwards* 277. (TYPE in Herb. Ames No. 39066).

ILLUSTRATION: Plant natural size. 1, flower, front view, enlarged. 2, flower, side view, enlarged. 3, column enlarged.



BLETIA *papilligera* Ames



*Reprinted August 1966.*